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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1207  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4267  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4527  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9626  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2520  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3916  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 9635  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0801  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001036

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DEPT FOR SCA/INS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [NP](#)  
SUBJECT: PARTIES CALL FOR APRIL 25 MASS PROTEST

REF: KATHMANDU 1029

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Summary

1. (C) Defying a fifth consecutive day-time curfew in Kathmandu, pro-democracy demonstrations continued in the capital and throughout the country on April 24, day nineteen of the seven-party alliance's general strike and protest program. However, protests in the capital were smaller, and the numbers of protests fewer than on previous days, as Party leaders announced plans to mobilize two million people to participate in a peaceful pro-democracy demonstration in Kathmandu on April 25. Leaders were optimistic that, if the King made an announcement agreeing to their demand of reinstatement of Parliament, the April 25 demonstration could turn into a victory celebration. End Summary.

Goal of Two Million Demonstrators in Kathmandu

2. (C) While demonstrations continued throughout the country on April 24, the Parties have called for a "huge" mass rally in the capital on April 25. The Parties hoped to increase the number of protesters to two million participants, roughly the total population of the Kathmandu Valley. For the first time since the April 6 program began, top alliance leaders planned to head the rally. Leaders stressed to Emboff that the rally would be peaceful, and that they planned to keep the demonstration on the Ring Road and not advance into the center of the city. Each of the seven-party alliance Party leaders planned to address the demonstrations from a different part of the Ring Road: including GP Koirala, NC President, at Maharajgunj; MK Nepal, CPN-UML General Secretary, at Kalanki; and Sher Bahadur Deuba, NC (D)

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President at Gongabu. The alliance has appealed to all citizens to join in the demonstration movement on April 25, with leaders addressing the crowds starting at 1200 local time.

Parties Hope it Will Be Victory Rally

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¶3. (C) K.P. Oli, CPN-UML Central Committee member, and Gopal Man Shrestha, NC (D) General Secretary, separately told Emboff that they hoped the April 25 rally would be a "victory celebration." Oli noted that, if the King announced restoration of Parliament before the rally began, then the Party leaders could explain their acceptance of such an offer and transform the mass demonstration into a celebratory force. However, if the King did not act, then the crowds would demand a constituent assembly, and the leaders would not be able to argue for a different course of action to the crowds. Shrestha worried that the crowds would be "very aggressive" if the King did not act. He hoped that the King would take into consideration the "grave situation of the country" and announce reinstatement of Parliament. He explained that if the King agreed to the roadmap of the Parties (reftel), then the mass meeting could celebrate victory.

People Feel Party Momentum  
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¶4. (C) A transportation entrepreneur told Emboff that the mood on the street was that the people were close to victory. The young entrepreneur thought that the demonstration on April 25 would attract many people who had not taken to the streets since the pro-democracy movement in 1990. He explained that the Parties, in the two weeks since the general strike began, had done more than the Maoists had in ten years to bring the monarchy under the people's control. He said that the pro-democracy movement was "so close" to achieving victory, and that the momentum would continue, though he noted that the Parties were already cautioning people to demonstrate peacefully and not to march to the Palace. Kundar Aryal, General Secretary of local human rights NGO INSEC, also believed that the April 25 demonstration would be "huge," but could easily turn violent if the King did not act before the rally started. He said that "the only safe landing for the King would be the reinstatement of the Parliament," continuing "only the Parties can protect the King from the mob." Aryal noted that INSEC monitors would be out in force on April 25. He reported that demonstrations on April 24 were small.

Comment  
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¶5. (C) While it is difficult to control large numbers of people, we hope the King will reach out and give the seven-party alliance leaders good news to share with the crowds. Emboffs estimate that only 30 percent of the demonstrators thus far are people forced by the Maoists to participate. The remainder are disgruntled poor people from within and outside of Kathmandu who believe the demonstrations are their best chance to address the Maoist insurgency and bring peace and change to Nepal. If the King acts before the April 25 demonstration gets into full swing, the Parties have a better chance of swaying the mood from anger and protest into jubilation. However, we worry how the Maoists will react to any news of a deal between Party leaders and the Palace. The Maoists might well attempt to incite violence.

MORIARTY